CRIME RAMPANT SINCE A. V., ANNO VOLSTEAD CLAIM
Washington, D. C., Dec. 17. [Special]—Capt. W. H. Stayton, founder and executive head of the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, tonight commended President Harding's call for a conference of governors here as a wise move and one calculated to throw much needed light on the situation. He charged the breakdown of the federal prohibition law, not the prohibition laws of the various states, was responsible for crime increase and growing disrespect for law.

"We entirely agree with the President's declaration in his last message to congress that crime is running amuck in this country," Capt. Stayton said.

"Statistics present the most indubitable proofs of the charge. They also completely refute the prohibition claims of the dry forces that the eighteenth amendment and Volstead act would empty the jails and usher in an unexampled era of law and order.

"Additional evidence of the steadily increasing crime wave has been furnished by entirely impartial organizations.

"These figures cover the years of 1917 to 1921 for arrests, convictions, the number of inmates of prisons and insane asylums, and the annual costs of police control by municipal governments.

"The fruit of the Volstead tree is unmistakably shown in these figures. Without exception the totals for the several heads showed a steady annual decrease in crime and insanity records up to the first year of attempted prohibition enforcement under the Volstead act. Since then the curve has steadily risen, with the number of convicts and insane higher in 1921 than in any previous year of the series.

"We quite agree that it is high time to call in the governors, because it is the federal law which has broken down."

HANGS HIMSELF WITH STRAP.
Frank Azanek, 30, hanged himself yesterday with a canvas strap tied to his bed in his room at 2234 South Ridgeway avenue.

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